



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: October 30, 2001

Comment Period Ends: November 30, 2001

File Number: 200101032

In Reply Refer To: Ted Lento

Kevin Walsh, Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD), Ten Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 has requested a Corps of Engineers permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to place fill material within 7 wetland and waterway areas totaling approximately 52,641 square feet and labeled wetland 4, 6, 6A, 7, 7A, 3, & 3A on the attached plans entitled "ROUTE 140 RELOCATION AND I-495 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS" in 20 sheets dated October 2001. The work is further described as follows:

MHD proposes to relocate a segment of Route 140, upgrade segments of existing Route 140, and improve the I-495/Route 140 Interchange. Relocated Route 140 begins at the westerly boundary of Forge Park opposite the Garelick Farms property. The existing two-lane roadway will be widened to four travel lanes with shoulders for approximately 0.3 miles and will transition to a new alignment. The new alignment will extend easterly to the Route 140/Grove Street intersection approximately 0.6 miles, and will have four at-grade intersections at Forge Parkway West, MBTA West Drive, Forge Parkway East and Grove Street. Relocated Route 140 will cross Mine Brook and the MBTA railroad on a new 560-foot, three-span bridge to protect the brook and associated wetlands.

The project also includes the widening of approximately 0.6 miles of existing Route 140 to four travel lanes easterly from the Grove Street-West Central Street intersection to the Pond Street/Franklin Village Shopping Center intersection. The project proposes to widen the I-495 overpass structure and to add turning lanes and signalization at the two I-495/Route 140 Interchange ramp terminals.

The structures that involve discharges in wetlands include one wetland replacement area, the foundation of one bridge pier, three culverts, and roadway embankment as described below:

A proposed wetland replacement area will be constructed in and adjacent to Wetland 4. During construction, the sloped wetland will be excavated back approximately 100 feet to create a flat area for the wetland replacement area. The creation of this proposed wetland replacement area would result in an additional temporary alteration of 17,376 square feet of wetland.

The foundation of one bridge pier will be constructed in Wetland 3. The approximate dimensions of the foundation are 84 feet wide x 20 feet long x 3.5 feet deep. The foundation will be constructed between 0.5 feet and 4 feet below existing grade. A 32-foot x 96-foot area with a depth ranging between 4 feet and 8 feet, will be excavated to construct the bridge pier foundation. After construction of the foundation is complete, the excavated area will be backfilled with the original excavated wetland material, and the area over the foundation, surrounding the bridge pier, will return to wetland. Approximately 400 square feet of wetland will be permanently filled and 13,078 sf will be temporarily impacted.

The existing 3-foot x 5-foot concrete box culvert connecting Wetland 7 to Wetland 7A, will be replaced with a new 3-foot x 5-foot concrete box culvert. The proposed culvert will be longer than the existing culvert to accommodate the increased roadway width. Approximately 702 sf of fill material will be placed in Wetland 7 to construct an embankment of the widened roadway.

The existing 2-foot x 2.5-foot concrete box culvert, connecting Wetland 6 to Wetland 6A, will be replaced with a 36-inch reinforced concrete pipe. The proposed concrete pipe will be longer than the existing culvert to accommodate the increased roadway width. Approximately 6,530 sf of fill will be placed in Wetlands 6 and 6A to construct embankment of the widened roadway.

The proposed relocation of Route 140 crosses Wetland 4. A 4-foot x 8-foot concrete box culvert is in Wetland 4 to maintain the existing flow path through the wetland. Approximately 45,009 square feet of fill will be placed in Wetland 4 to construct an embankment for the crossing of Wetland 4.

The purpose of the Route 140 Relocation and I-495 Interchange Improvements Project is to:

- provide a higher capacity roadway system to address current congestion and projected traffic volume increases on project area roadways, and at the I-495/Route 140 Interchange, and
- correct existing Route 140 and I-495 safety deficiencies, including inconsistent vertical alignment with frequent grade changes; winding horizontal alignment with poor sight distances, and high accident frequency and,
- provide acceptable interstate ramp system traffic operations.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Lento at (978) 318-8863, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR
DETAILS OF EVALUATION
FACTORS

Karen Kirk Adams
Chief, Permits & Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity in the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, and further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon review of the latest published version of the National Register that shows the presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the District Engineer is hereby requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency provide comments regarding the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or its critical habitat.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- ☒ (x) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- ☒ (x) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- ☒ (x) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved Coastal Zone Management Programs. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

If you would prefer not to continue receiving public notices, please check here () and return this portion of the public notice to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New England District, ATTN: Regulatory Branch, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME:

ADDRESS: